

Case 3455***Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858 (Osteichthyes, Siluriformes, BAGRIDAE):
proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9 and 81.2 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858 for a group of bagrid catfishes (order Siluriformes) by suppressing the senior name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803. The identity of *Tachysurus* remained ambiguous until the recent designation of a neotype for *Tachysurus sinensis* La Cepède, 1803. The designated neotype is a specimen that had until that point been identified as *Pseudobagrus fulvidraco* (Richardson, 1845). This neotype designation made *Tachysurus* a senior subjective synonym of *Pseudobagrus*. The use of the name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 in reference to Southeast Asian freshwater bagrid catfishes currently referred to *Pseudobagrus* would create significant confusion in the literature. It is proposed that the name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 be suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; BAGRIDAE; *Pseudobagrus*; *Tachysurus*; *Pseudobagrus aurantiacus*; *Pseudobagrus fulvidraco*; *Tachysurus sinensis*; catfish; China.

1. La Cepède (1803, pp. 150, 151, pl. 5) proposed the name *Tachysurus sinensis* for a catfish depicted in a Chinese illustration archived in Paris at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN). *Tachysurus sinensis* La Cepède, 1803 is the type species of *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 (pp. 150, 151) by monotypy. The locality for the illustration is given as China.

2. Bleeker (1858, p. 60, 65) proposed the generic name *Pseudobagrus* for the bagrid catfish *Bagrus aurantiacus* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846 (p. 227). The type species of *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858 by monotypy is *Bagrus aurantiacus* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846.

3. The identity of *Tachysurus* remained ambiguous as an undetermined siluriform (Wheeler & Baddokwaya, 1981; Taylor, 1986) until the recent designation of a

neotype (Ng & Kottelat, 2007). Ferraris (2007) noted that in Chinese literature *Tachysurus sinensis* had frequently been treated as valid in *Arius* Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1840, a genus of ariid catfishes.

4. Ng & Kottelat (2007, p. 37) designated a neotype for *Tachysurus sinensis* La Cepède, 1803. The designated neotype (USNM 336888) is a specimen from the National Museum of Natural History (Washington, DC) that had until that point been identified as *Pseudobagrus fulvidraco* (originally *Pimelodus ? fulvidraco* Richardson, 1845, p. 286). The designated neotype is part of a collection of 10 specimens collected in March 24, 1995 by L.R. Parenti and C. Zhang from Huairou Reservoir in Huairou County, Beijing (40 19' 00" N, 116 37' 31" E). The neotype designation by Ng & Kottelat (2007, p. 37) made *Tachysurus* a subjective senior synonym of *Pseudobagrus*.

5. The name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 has priority over *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858. However, recognising its precedence would produce considerable taxonomic instability. In the past 50 years, at least 135 works (with a total of 260 authors) that mention *Pseudobagrus* have been published. In addition, in the same span of time, 121 works use *Tachysurus* in reference to ariid catfishes. The catfish family ARIIDAE has a global distribution and currently includes 120 species of catfishes, many of which are commercially important. The BAGRIDAE is a freshwater group that is found primarily in Asia and also includes species of commercial significance. The Commission Secretariat holds the lists demonstrating these uses. Considering the potential to add taxonomic confusion to a relatively large and active body of literature, and the ambiguity of the source material on which La Cepède's original name proposal was made, we opine that the neotype designation of Ng and Kottelat (2007) does not follow General Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Code (Appendix B).

6. The continued and recent use of *Tachysurus* in reference to ariid catfishes does not meet the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code. However, the extensive use of *Pseudobagrus* in recent literature (with subjects ranging broadly from taxonomy to physiology, ecology and fisheries) suggests the present situation falls within the intention of 23.9.3. We argue that the use of *Tachysurus* in reference to Southeast Asian freshwater bagrid catfishes currently referred to *Pseudobagrus* would create significant confusion in the literature because both names (*Tachysurus* and *Pseudobagrus*) have received and continue to receive frequent use in reference to species that belong to two geographically, ecologically and taxonomically distinct groups of catfishes. It is proposed that the names *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 and *Tachysurus sinensis* La Cepède, 1803 be suppressed, as the original description of *Tachysurus sinensis* La Cepède, 1803 (based solely on an illustration of a specimen that does not fit any known catfish gross anatomy) is unlikely ever to yield a satisfactory association with a recognized group. By asking for suppression we hope to reduce any future confusion.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary power:

(a) to suppress the generic name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

- (b) to suppress the name *sinensis* La Cepède, 1803, as published in the binomen *Tachysurus sinensis* (specific name of the type species of *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Bagrus aurantiacus* Temminck and Schlegel, 1846;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *aurantiacus* Temminck & Schlegel, 1846, as published in the binomen *Bagrus aurantiacus* (specific name of the type species of *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1858);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *sinensis* La Cepède, 1803, as published in the binomen *Tachysurus sinensis* (specific name of the type species of *Tachysurus* La Cepède, 1803) and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).